



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Jaime A. Molera
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

SPED 02-30

MEMORANDUM

To: County School Superintendents

From: Lynn Busenbark, Ph.D.
Director of Program Support
Exceptional Student Services

Date: December 10, 2001

Subject:

1. Child Find for children who are being home schooled
2. County-wide report on FY 2001 monitoring findings
3. Proposed assistance to county school superintendents to improve monitoring findings

The first purpose of this memo is to recruit your assistance in ensuring that parents of students who are home schooled understand their right to access some special education services from their school district of residence. As you may know, until last legislative session, school districts had no obligation to provide services beyond evaluation to children whose parents elected to home school them. In the last session, the legislature included this population in the definition of private school students.

Therefore, to the extent that school districts are required to provide services to private school students, they are now required to provide services to home schooled students. Your office may be the only way that the ADE can get information about the availability of special education services to these families. We would like to provide you with information that can be provided to those families who register to home school their children. This information would include an explanation of the requirements and how to go about accessing services.

Please let me know if you are willing to cooperate with us in this matter. My email is lbusenb@ade.az.gov. If you prefer not to use email, please surface mail your response to me at the address on the letterhead.

The second purpose of this memo is to provide you with the countywide and statewide results from the special education monitoring system for FY 2001 (See attachments). The computerization of the system enables us to provide you with this information for the first time. Our goal is to target those areas of relative weakness, initiate activities that lead to improvement, and track the change over time.

This brings me to the last purpose of the memo. While brainstorming strategies with the Exceptional Student Services (ESS) staff about ways to improve the compliance status across the state, it was noted that county school superintendents can – and often do – play a substantial role in this regard. I would like to open a dialog with you to determine if there is a way for us to support additional activities through your office to improve the compliance picture in the county. At this point, I have no preconceived plan in mind and am inquiring about your interest in such a discussion.

I anticipate arranging a conference call in January with those of you who express interest in this project. Please let me know if you wish to be included in this conference call.